

# Tiny Violinists Enjoy These Lessons



HOLDING A VIOLIN properly takes lots of concentration, as this class of four through eight - year - olds demonstrates. (Observer photos by Bob Woodring)



AFTER HOLDING the violin has been mastered, it's time to learn how to hold the bow. Kelly looks on as her mother, Mrs. Nancy Drifmeyer, shows Doug Methner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Methner, how it's done.

By BETTY MASSON  
Photos By Bob Woodring

"Close the rabbit's mouth around the frog," says the teacher, and 23 children hasten to try it out while their mothers look on with interest. It may sound like a lesson in "our furry friends and their strange eating habits," but it's not. Instead it's one part of a program designed to teach children "to become more sensitive human beings" by showing them how to play the violin.

THE CLASS is making its debut in Plymouth this summer under auspices of the schools and under the tutelage of Mrs. Nancy Drifmeyer, whose daughter, Kelly, is one of the students.

It's for children between the ages of four and eight. The majority of the students are four and five, and they are responding to this type of teaching with enthusiasm.

Occasionally, attention wanders, however, and a conversation about what it would be like to eat a frog breaks out, while Mrs. Drifmeyer checks her instructions, which are actually designed to show the students how to hold a violin bow.

The bow is the frog and the right hand is the rabbit. And the violins look like they might have been left behind by absent - minded elves.

CLASSES ARE being held three times a week in Plymouth High School. The first three weeks were spent in learning how to stand properly, how to hold the violin properly and how to hold the bow the right way.

After the children have mastered these, they'll learn how to play in much the same way they have so recently learned to speak, by watching, listening and imitating. Their first piece is variations on "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Most of the mothers are renting the appropriate - sized violins for the classes. They go down as small as 1/8th of the size of a normal violin, but the sounds are the same, especially for beginners.



NOW THEY'RE set to go and Kelly and Doug swing into "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." They are learning by imitating Mrs. Drifmeyer.



VIOLIN CASE under his arm, Doug leaves the class to go home and play baseball.

## amusements

### Redford Schoolcraft Festival Is Going To Be Different

By TIM RICHARD

The summer music festival at Schoolcraft College is going to be different this year. A lot different. Richard Saunders, directing it for the first time this summer, is "feeling his way," in the words of a colleague. "The faculty is doing a lot of the works they want to do."

Wayne Dunlap, who was Schoolcraft's musical director until last fall, started the series five years ago with the idea of offering a chamber music program that wasn't likely to be duplicated anywhere else.

Dunlap's idea was to pair a classical with a modern composer who resembled him - Haydn and Hindemith, Schubert and Poulenc, Mozart and Stravinsky. There was always something on the program as 19th century Romantic slobs had heard before, and something new that we could grow into. Programming was careful.

This year there is no theme except to emphasize the works of England's Ralph Vaughan Williams, born 100 years ago.

THE OPENING faculty concert Tuesday included a violin sonata by Charles Ives, with whom I have about as much in common as Leon Trotsky; a cello sonata by composer-in-residence Robert W. Jones, who loves audiences as much as some composers hated them; and the Titan, Beethoven.

Other than that they all featured two to four instruments, the works had little in common.

Allen Shaffer, assistant director of the Schoolcraft festival and a Dunlap prole, says to quit worrying and taking it

## S'craft Music Faculty Stages Chamber Recital

The second chamber music recital of the 1972 Schoolcraft College Summer Music Festival will be given by members of the summer school faculty on Tuesday, July 18, at 8:30 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Theater.

The college has been holding its annual summer music school and festival since 1967. It is now under the direction of Richard Saunders, who will make his first appearance next week as conductor of the festival's Court Orchestra.

Tuesday night's recital will feature works by Anton

**The Gourmet Adventures of**

**DICK BENSEK**

Banquet foods from ancient France? How about peacock pie? Both the head, gilded and glazed, and the peacock tail in all its splendor arose above the crust which might be two feet in diameter. At one royal banquet 104 such pies were served. Swans, too, were served roasted whole in gilded plumage. Snails were popular as a banquet food; so were frogs. In one of the earliest of the French cookbooks, published in 1394, a recipe for preparing snails concluded: "They are eaten with spice and are for rich people."

**DANISH INN, 32305 Grand River Ave., 476-5320** is a popular place to dine for people who know and enjoy fine foods including a number of Danish Dishes. You are also treated to excellent music Tuesdays thru Saturdays from 8:30 p.m. to Closing from Pat Flowers. He plays memorable jazz, boogie and classical music.

**HELPFUL HINT:** Canned clams should have a bright color when opened. Dark color indicates staleness, bad flavor.

**Now APPEARING in the VIKING LOUNGE . . .**

**Mitch 'n Hodd**  
Tuesday thru Saturday 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Folksinger  
**MARSHA VINCENT ROBERTS**  
Appearing  
Sunday & Monday 8 p.m. to Midnight

**Holiday Inn**  
OF FARMINGTON  
28123 W. 10 MILE Road  
1-95 and Grand River Ave.  
477-4000

**Joel Durand's Art Is In Fair**

Joel J. Durand of Idaho Street, Livonia, is among the artists whose work will be shown at the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair. The fair will run from July 19-22. Durand is a painter.

Plymouth will be represented by ceramics by Richard Saunders and pottery by John Groat.

Arts and crafts by artists from 17 states and Canada are represented at the juried fair. It will be open each day from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., except Saturday when it will close at 5 p.m.

**Joel Durand's Art Is In Fair**

Joel J. Durand of Idaho Street, Livonia, is among the artists whose work will be shown at the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair. The fair will run from July 19-22. Durand is a painter.

Plymouth will be represented by ceramics by Richard Saunders and pottery by John Groat.

Arts and crafts by artists from 17 states and Canada are represented at the juried fair. It will be open each day from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., except Saturday when it will close at 5 p.m.